

U.S. TRASH

ISSUE #4

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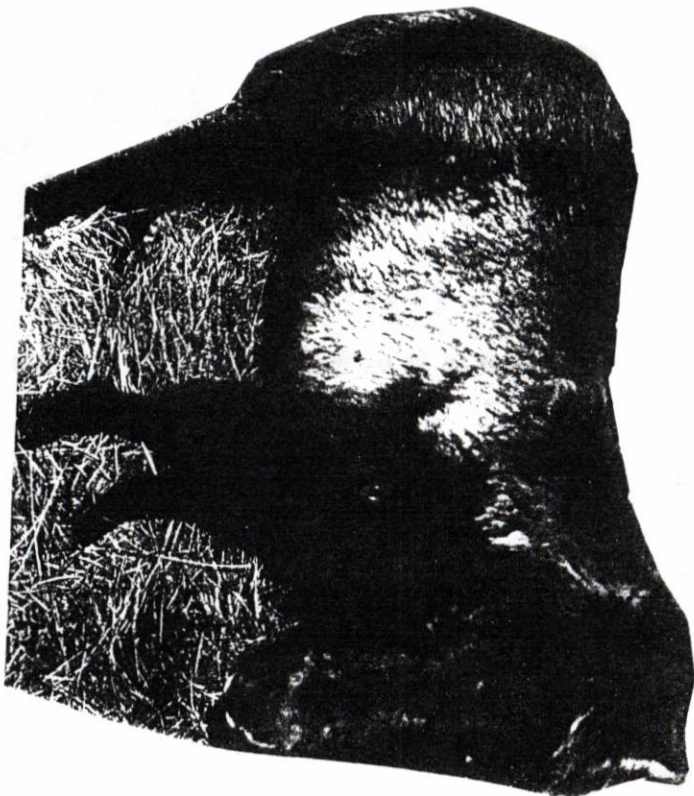


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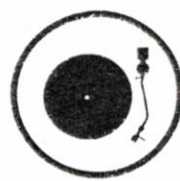
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Dear U.S. Trash reader,

Here's what's going to happen someday. It will be about that time of the month when the new issue of U.S. Trash should be on the free rack at Music D's. But, there is no U.S. Trash. Another week goes by and still no Trash. Then a month goes by. Still nothing. When that time comes, don't say to yourself, "Yes, I hated that zine! That guy must have finally gotten bored." No. Sorry to disappoint you, but U.S. Trash will plague you for the rest of your life (or at least my life). If there is ever a lengthy hiatus, it is simply because I have been forced to find an alternate printing method. The method I have right now allows me to give U.S. Trash out for free. Someday that method may not be available anymore, so I will seek out another way. Hopefully, it will always be free (what kind of dult would ever pay for it anyway?). Anyway, I just wanted to let you know you can expect to see this shitty zine for a long time. Not that you care or anything.

Love, the moron

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U.S. Trash #4

Free/2 stamps

Writers- Ross, Ron, Greg, Kevin, Matt# 2, and some loser.

Ad Rates- We don't do reviews anymore. You have to pay for your ads now. \$5 for a half page, \$10 for a full page. You're not going to send us an ad are you? I didn't think so. Oh well, I tried.

Contributions- Feel free to send us stuff you wrote. We might print it.

Distribution- People who help us distribute are hella cool.

Thanks- Allan, Jim, Allan, Page, Allan, Blake, Allan, Mike (for putting up with me, no seriously), Allan, all the nice folks who write us, Allan, the OKC Pro-Active guys, the Okie Dokie Distro gals and anyone else who is trying to improve our scene (your efforts do not go unnoticed), and last but not least, Allan.

U.S. Trash
P.O. Box 5816
Edmond, OK 73083-5816

Don't e-mail us. I hate e-mail. Please write us letters. I like letters.

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Mick Bastard-We got your letter, it'll be in the next issue. Not enough room in this'n.



Letter #1

U.S. Trash-

I wanted to respond to your article "Alcohol-Punk Rock or Dumb Jock?" It seems you associate people's behavior towards alcohol as being a turn for the worst. I don't necessarily agree with that. It was your friend's decision to choose to drink, therefore it is his own difficulty to not control himself. He has a choice whether or not to drink and you give the impression that once you take a drink, uh oh...you no longer run your life...it's outta control, you've sold your soul to the alcohol devil. I know alcohol can take a big part of someone's life and does have long term side effects (I come from a long line of alcoholics) but I also know everyone has this thing called a mind of their own and can choose whether or not they let this hobby take over their world. You can't go blaming alcohol beverage companies for these problems. What made your friend start to drink? A lot of the time people start drinking to escape reality, maybe something was wrong in his life..did you ever think of asking him about it instead of ignoring and bitching about how much he's changed? You could help him if you really care that much, sure, a person cannot help themselves if they don't want to but maybe he is unaware that he has a problem. And that is where you come in. I'm sorry you lost your friend but don't blame it on the alcohol, it can't help the fact that people like to drink and have been doing so for hundreds of years.

Oh, and why exactly does it make you a "dumb jock" if you drink?? I never knew jocks started the whole drinking thing. I guess this scene is just chock full of them.

Fred (Fred did not include his real name or his real address with his letter)

Dear "Fred"-

Tell me, did you actually even read the fucking article?

Fred's mistake #1-You say that I "give the impression that once you take a drink, uh oh...you no longer run your life...it's out of control, you've sold your soul to the alcohol devil." Earth to Fred, pull your head out! In the 3rd to last paragraph, I clearly state, "Just like that one old guy smoked 5 cigars a day and lived to be a hundred, some people can drink all the time and you wouldn't be able to tell." Then, just to make sure I pounded into everybody's head that I wasn't saying that alcohol automatically turns people into zombies, I repeated in the second to last line of the article, "I know drinking has no effect on a lot of people, I just wish everyone would be a bit more careful about how much they drink." Man, what was I thinking? Trying to actually care about people enough to ask that they (gasp) "be

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Wald, Kenneth D. Religion and Politics in the United States. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc. 1992.

This essay is about a year old, so some of the stuff is out dated. I will get an update done for one of the next few issues. I'll probably concentrate on the coalitions activities in our area. Send me any info or ideas you would like to see.

Kevin Mix
PO Box 342016
Edmond, OK 73034-0003

Is it our wholeness of mind that allows us to love,
or is it our ability to love that makes us whole?

I feel as if it is our wholeness of mind that makes love possible. It is obvious to me that if you are not healthy mentally that any relationship you would enter into would be unhealthy. To me this would be common sense, but it would appear that not many people are aware of this.

The undivided mind is complete in itself. So it would logically follow that the divided mind is incomplete. If you are incomplete what do you have to offer anyone else? The flip side of this argument is that the other person or thing would fill the gap and provide the missing piece. This mistake is made many times and will probably continue to be made through out human history. Why, if we have this knowledge? The answer is simple: Because it is easier. It is easier to grab something from the outside to fill a gap then it is look within yourself for the answers. People do this because they are lazy. It is sad that people try and fill themselves with things instead of trying to know themselves. Buying that new car or sleeping with that girl makes them feel important for that moment, but then they are left striving for the next thrill.

This is why our society, and capitalist societies as a whole, don't work. This whole system is set up to perpetuate this cycle. This elaborate illusion is attached to everything we see. The mass media feeds this sickness with every commercial on TV, every magazine, and every billboard on the highway all telling us we are nothing without these things. It is sad that so many people ride this roller coaster to escape the reality of who they are. Those of us who are aware will just have to stand back and watch them puke over the railing.

Kevin Mix

careful?!" You're right Fred, I am out of line!
Fred's mistake #2- You don't like the way I blame people's problems on alcohol. The only problems that I blame on alcohol in the article are alcohol's adverse affects on the brain. I didn't pull it out of my ass crack, it is scientifically proven that alcohol kills brain cells. You'll have to excuse me for being truthful.

Fred's mistake #3- Fred states "did you ever think about asking him about it instead of ignoring and bitching about how he's changed?" Fred you don't know me (actually, you might know me, there's no way for me to know since you were to much of a coward to use your real name), you don't know my friend, and you definatly don't know the details of our friendship. So where the fuck do you get off assuming that I haven't tried to talk with him about it?! I tried hard to get him to ease up on his drinking, but he always just blew me off. You probably could have figured out that I had tried to talk to him about it, if you had read the line, "he denies that he has a problem and denies it has changed him." Why would he deny it unless I was trying to talk to him about it? I guess you didn't bother to read that portion of the article either. Whoops.

Fred's mistake #4- Fred says he's sorry I lost my friend. I lost my friend? I could have sworn he was still my friend. Fred would think that, too, if he had bothered to read the fourth line on page 28 where I say, "No matter what, I still love the guy. He seems to be coming around, but he just doesn't seem the same." I never said he wasn't my friend anymore.

Fred's mistake #5- Fred asks me why I think it makes someone a "dumb jock" if they drink. I never did say it made someone a dumb jock if they drink, I simply posed the question. The reason I did so is because there seems to be a plethora of folks out there who consider alcohol a staple of punk. I remember sitting outside Tip's Tavern before a show and watching people drink and thinking, these punks are taking part in the exact same activity as the frat boys down the street whom they despise. I think it's ironic. I hope nobody reems me for stating my opinion, it seems simply talking about what you think can make you a lot of enemies real fast around here.

I ask Fred and anyone else who wants to complain to me about something to at least make their complaints factual. Please, no more letters chewing me out for things that I never said.--Matt

Letter #2

Dear U.S. Trash,

I got issue #3 today! I liked it, especially the cover of the MRR review. But....I did find a mistake. In the Al Gore piece (which I really, really liked) you said, "Don't forget your option of casting a write-in vote..." Well, I asked about this during the last election. In typical

Oklahoma fashion, our so-called "rights" have been stripped on this issue as well. If you write anywhere on the ballot sheet out of the designated areas, they throw the whole thing away. I've only voted once, but on my sheet there wasn't a place for write-ins. In other words, if you write "Strom Thurmond" in as your choice, not only does it not count, but neither does your say on any other issue on the ballot. Can you spell FASCISM? (speaking of good old Strom....)

Mike, you're a bastard!! Just kidding. I really liked the Gore thing. Most people are pro or con, especially in the media, but you gave pros and cons on Gore. I would have voted against him in a heartbeat, mainly because of Tipper. But the global warming thing and the Ellen thing made me think a bit more.

Thanks,
Danny Zuko-Enid

Danny-

Thanks for correcting me. Isn't it funny how we are free to vote, but only between certain candidates? When was the last time we had the choice to vote for someone who wasn't a member of the upper-class? Probably more than a hundred years ago. How is a government full of upper class rich folk supposed to properly represent a nation which is predominantly middle-class? Because it doesn't matter what the people think, it matters what the people with the money think. Man, it sucks when no one cares about what is in our best interest! Thanks again for correcting me!--Matt

Note: My government teacher tells me that there are write-in spaces on some ballots. He said it depends on the election. I'm only 17, so I had to ask around.



from an actual newsletter sent out by the Coalition claiming that "AT&T is committed to using their resources to convince America that homosexuality is a normal alternative lifestyle" (Cox). Go to some of the meetings of the local chapters there is a sure bet there is one near to you. If you don't vote you better start because they do. It is important to not just vote on federal issues but also on what's going down in your community. At the rate the Coalition is progressing it won't be long before books disappear from your library shelves and movies never make it to your theaters. They will pass local statutes that keep you from making your own moral choices guaranteed to you in the constitution. If you allow the CC to infiltrate your government on any level it's no one's fault but your own.

Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) a devout supporter of the Christian Coalition is quoted as stating "I'm not going to try to impose my moral values on America. There's only one person whose values are good enough to govern America...and until he does come back, we're going to entrust America's values to our families" (Gaylor). If only this were true, but in fact it's exactly the opposite of what the coalition is doing. The United States is on its way to becoming exactly what the founders of this country wanted to escape from. A nation run by the religious tyranny of one group's interpretation of the laws of God. The Coalition has knocked quite a few bricks out of the wall separating religion and government. It's up to each person to do their part in patching the holes and adding some bricks to the top.

Birnbaum, J H. "The Gospel According To Ralph" *Time* 15 May 1995 28-35

Conn, Joseph. "Americans United Commends FEC Action Against Christian Coalition." 31 Jul 1996. Online: <http://www.netplexgroup.com/americans/united/pr-7-30.htm> 28 Oct. 1996.

Cox, Amy. "I Was a Spy at the Christian Coalition. Behind the Lines." June/July 1995. Online: http://www.infidels.org/org/ffrf/ftoday/june_july95/spy.html 15 Nov. 1996.

Gaylor, Annie Laurie. "Listening in on the Christian Coalition 'Road to Victory' 1995." Oct 1995. Online: <http://www.infidels.org/org/ffrf/ftoday/october95/listen.html> 15 Nov. 1996.

The Interfaith Alliance Foundation and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "'Road to Victory'-- Warning: Hazard Ahead. A Report on the Political and Policy Agendas of the Christian Coalition." Online: <http://www.intr.net/tialliance/execsum.html> 15 Nov. 1996.

Schmidt, Steffen W., Shelley H., Mack C., and Bardes, Barbara A. American Government and Politics Today. Saint Paul/Minneapolis: West Publishing Company 1995.

of the left, and were not going to take it anymore." The elimination of the Departments of Education, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, and Energy also the Surgeon Generals office and the National Endowment for the Arts. A stop to federal funding for abortion and that abortion be made illegal. Not suprisingly Robertson believes women to be unequal to men and has stated that "The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. Its a socialist, anti family, political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians." The CC also wants a repeal of the ban on assault weapons. Babies born in the U.S. to noncitizen mothers to be denied citizenship. The ending of welfare, medical aid, food stamps, school lunches, college assistance, plus emergency housing and food programs (IAF). Pat Robertson's right hand man Ralph Reed has high hopes for the Christian Coalition aiming for 10 people in each of 175,000 political precincts, bringing the budget to double or quadruple the 25 million its operating with right now and reaching 100,000 churches claiming that "If we do all that we will be larger and more effective and reach more people than the Republican and Democratic parties combined"(Birnbbaum).

The Christian Coalition has gone undisputed long enough and the federal government has been paying them a little more attention recently. The Federal Election Committee has filed a law suit in federal district court to levy fines on the CC for unlawful political activities and demanding the Coalition be stopped from taking part in partisan functions from now on. The FEC stated that the voters guides the CC publishes and its other events have been purposely covertly designed to give particular candidates running for office support. Americans United for the Separation of Church and State has charged on several occasions since 1990 that the CC is in direct violation of federal tax and election laws because it is supporting individual candidates for office. Barry W. Lynn, the Executive Director of Americans United, stated in a recent document that "The Christian Coalition from day one has been a hard-ball political operation cloaked in religiosity. The FEC action today rips aside that cloak." He also noted that the IRS could also act to take away the tax-exempt status the CC has been enjoying. It has been working under a conditional 501-c-4 tax status, but the Internal Revenue Service has not made it constant (Conn). It should be noted that not all the law makers are ready to side with the Coalition. After a visit by Ralph Reed to New Hampshire the Democratic State Senator of New Hampshire Burt Cohen stated that "He represents a dangerous trend in this country. We should keep religion and politics separate." Fellow State Senator Jeanne Shaheen said "Any time you paint yourself as having the right answers because of a direct connection to God, that's very dangerous"(Birnbbaum).

In order to actively help stop the Christian Coalition you have to, as CC member D.J. Gribbin put it when explaining how the Coalition is planning to secure its goals, "infiltrate and participate"(Cox). This mean two things both know your enemy and get involved in your government on local and federal levels. Get on the Christian Coalitions mailing list and receive important bulletins like this. "If you are an AT&T customer, you are helping to promote homosexuality in America." This was taken

If I wanted christian smoke blown up my ass I'd be sitting in my garage with a pack of cigars, a bible, and a short length of hose

By:Greg Wickham

Sitting in my Algebra class, April 19th at 9 o'clock a.m., 1996, I was subjected to our principal's moment of silence/Prayer to our lord the holy savior. This little "moment" of silence was accompanied by a brief prayer with definite Christian messages and references to Christ. The moment was intended to "honor" the people who died in that OKC bombing thing. (**DISCLAIMER
DISCLAIMER
DISCLAIMER
DANGER WILL ROBINSON--DO NOT ADJUST YOUR TELEVISION SETS**) I'm not a sadist. I respect the fact that actual people died there, and I'm not intending to dishonor them or their memory. The actual point (which I will soon stumble upon) has very little do with the OKC bomb. The message I'm trying to get across here is that the OKC bombing only triggered this rant. SOOO ANYWAY, I sat at my desk, appalled that this forced prayer (forced only through the majority who would ostercize any who opposed. I can't imagine what they'd do to someone who didn't comply--they'd probably send them to sunny beaches of hELL to kick back and tan with the prince of darkness) was going on in a country who declared a wall of separation between church and state--then I remember where I lived. As they sat, nearly every last person in the school and around the globe, they paid tribute to the people who were unfortunate enough to be in the federal building when the thing went off, allthwhile disregarding the millions of other people who died in, at the hands of, or defending this "great land of ours"(insert mocking snicker here). Perhaps these others were not struck down by the big hand of terrorism, they just died arbitrarily for some cause deemed holy or noble by-you guessed it--the gubment. But, nestled in the "heartland", the Bible Belt, Christian bible thumpers don't pay heed to these people. They simply profess their devotion to the "Lawd"--whoever he or she is--and love all and respect all--(scary part) ALL WHO AGREE. Our local childhood-preacher-prodigies at my former internment camp-Broken Arrow High School (insert boos and hisses)--wore t-shirts with some tired-out, out-of-context scripture quote praising Jesus (pronounced HEY-ZEUS) and denouncing the devil-who, unlike Christians, does not have the reputation for being a bigoted hypocrite. The majority of these people who profess the Christian faith do it half-assed. The majority of people do it because God is cool, or God is the in-thing, or God is the only one who can help me because I can't think on my own. The other minority (I'll call them) are too zoned out to even connect with the real world and have become too wrapped up

and too sheltered to develop any meaningful relationship. This is based upon the girls I went out with in high school who concealed their faith with a cunning and guile that outshadows Bruce Wayne. Getting back to the hypocrites (the majority), these are the people who get drunk on Saturday, then sober up quick to throw on a devil-bashing t-shirt, and stumble into church in time to denounce all those bad people like homosexuals, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists/agnostics, unborns, all those people who don't conform. Conforming to a faith whose members preach hypocrisy within the beloved sanctuary of a god of Convenience. Preaching tolerance while slighting those that the Bible (ya you know that little Mao-esque book that contains absolute truth (except for the parts with fallacies and contradictions) that they insist on carrying with them--for good luck I assume) has singled out (not unlike Hitler and Jenny McCarthy-who (by the by) should never have been allowed to leave the show in question) to receive the brunt of their wrath--like homos (I mean gay people). Having distributed this osterization, the Christians can go back to loving everyone now that the devil hath been smitten (er... something). This GOD OF CONVENIENCE (not 7-11) has come to suit the needs of the majority nicely--especially when choosing a stance on an issue. They suddenly become devout Christians when confronted with issues like abortion or gay rights who respond with quoted verses from that wonderful piece of fiction they tote around. This is where the convenience plays its most important role. Their religion assumes a tangibility which allows the convenience-worshippers to set christianity upon some storage shelf to be picked up whenever necessary to suit the situation--perhaps at some point when God becomes "in" or the socially acceptable thing. As God's-public appeal brought on through the ever-powerful media grows, the number of nominal christians increases. This amassing of power in numbers would be frightening, but luckily this new Aryan race deemed superior on the basis of their moral superiority lacks significant devotion to start their Borg-like assimilation (for all you Star-trekies out there) of devil-spawn-incarnates. This conversion process treads on slowly and tiredly, however, seeking out those who don't seem to fit the mold of a model citizen who at least accepts the tenets of christianity. "Have you been saved?" or "Have you found God?" are pretty common opening lines. Sometimes they will tempt the fat kids with Atty's brand roast beef. But they all have they same purpose--converting deviants to Christ. I imagine that finding Jesus doesn't contain much of a challenge. It's almost simply a matter of saying "I'm a Christian." BOY, that is convenient. This allows the majority of Christians to compromise their beliefs to indulge in life's little pleasures (abhorred by the other minority): namely, alcohol, marijuana, and sex, sex, sex. And more sex. The majority of the christian teens indulge themselves in this little

Beware the Christian Coalition

Thomas Jefferson wrote that the establishment clause of the first amendments purpose is to construct a "wall of separation of Church and State"(Schmidt). The Christian Coalition is weaseling its way into our government from the ground up and is not showing any signs that it will back down. Their goal is clear, the eradication of the wall the founders worked hard to build and the imposing of their version of Gods morals on the nation. In a nation that was founded to escape religious tyranny this should be considered a dire threat. The Christian Coalition must legally be prevented from causing a dangerous blur in the line separating church and state

The first amendment to the U.S. constitution contains two parts, the separation of church and state and the free exercise of religion. The first part is called the establishment clause and it makes it unlawful for the government to establish a state sponsored church. The Supreme Court defined the establishment clause more clearly in the 1947 case *Emerson v Board of Education*. Justice Hugo Black wrote "Neither a state nor the federal government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another. Neither can force nor influence a person to go to or to remain away from church against his will or force him to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion. No person can be punished for entertaining or professing beliefs or disbeliefs, for church attendance or nonattendance. No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion. Neither a state nor the federal government can participate in the affairs of any religious organization or groups or vice versa"(Schmidt, Wald)

Televangelist Pat Robertson ran for president in 1988. He shocked alot of citizens with his extreme rhetoric, but it though it was unlikely he would be supported earnestly or that he would gain much assistance and certainly not enough to demand everyone follow his plan for America. A lot of people within the religious community were outraged because he was hiding his intolerant agenda in a religious cover insinuating God supported his ideas. Since then Pat Robertson and his Christian Coalition have been hard at work fanning the fire he started in 1988. In 1994 the Christian Coalition's "grassroots" network passed out 35 million voters guides, 17 million cards scoring congressmen and women on their individual votes, and 3 million voters received phone calls (Interfaith Alliance Foundation). The Christian Coalition shows complete dominance of the Republican parties in 18 states for a total of 239 electoral votes and significant push in 13 others for 117 more (Birnbauem, IAF) The CC has 1.6 million acting members and a yearly budget of 25 million dollars (Birnbauem)

A shocking 165 congressmen and 33 members of the senate support the Christian Coalition with an estimated 86 percent of their votes. The supporters have proposed the following as legislation in the 104th congress. An amendment to the constitution eliminating the establishment clause. Robertson is quoted as saying the clause is "a lie

firearm about. Some animals respond by either retreating or simply laying down and submitting. In humans posturing is exhibited in close, face to face combat. Soldiers were observed aiming, just above the heads of the "enemy" on purpose. Others were observed *blatantly refusing to fire their weapons!*

Unfortunately, military leaders recognized this for what it is, and have since developed ways to work around it. Earlier on, the officers would coerce their men to fire upon the "enemy" as they retreated. Since backs are turned in a retreat, no posturing can take place, therefore, soldiers had almost no problem killing their opponents. Then, the methods became slightly more psychologically "sophisticated." The government used the media to fill their heads with higher abstract principles such as "freedom," and "justice," etcetera. So when the soldiers got to the battlefields, their thought processes got as primitive as: "Me= good guy; Them= bad guys; Me kill bad guys 'grunt'" but even these methods sometimes failed...so our governments are perfecting the art of killing from afar.

Killing from afar is a relatively simple concept: it consists of bombing from the air or from the sea, in order to eliminate face to face combat. It all ties in here: the absence of face to face confrontations eliminates posturing altogether. This is extremely and horrifyingly dangerous. Pilots from WWII have remarked that when they were flying missions above countries, they never imagined that they would be killing people, but merely bombing targets. This is terrible! With the nuclear arsenals still maintained and the close confrontations removed almost completely from the war process, many, many lives are hanging in the balance here, and that is absolutely not a good way to live. It has been said in the past that one is better active today, than radioactive tomorrow; this applies strongly to our lives today. War is a terrible crime against us. Resist this crime; protest war.

Please direct any questions, comments, or jibes to
H_c_RoN@hotmail.com.

- H.C. 03.05.98.0

honey that life offers and keep it morally legal by their own personal Winnie the Pooh-RELIGION!!!!!!

Now, in order for them to gain any power or momentum the minority (mainly) increase their devotion to compensate for the lacking in the part of the majority. The form unions (the Christian Student Union, CSU for those keeping tabs on your scorecard, was the name at my old high school) and hold rallies (possibly similar to those of the KKK, especially with regard to their promotion of superiority) which serve no other purpose than to gratify their ambitions of conversion and osterization outsiders. They rally and focus their beliefs which are amplified by blinding faith and acceptance. They refuse to question any tenet despite the hard and fast evidence presented. One such rally was held on April 19th. When that little moment o silence/gratification of Christianity/infringement on non-Christians rights was out on the intercom they regarded it as a triumph. Triumph over heathens and triumph over the thin line dividing church and state. They worship and preach and convert to the point just under the extreme of building a church in the middle of the campus, which would suit them just fine.

Look, my point is this (oh thank god he's got a point): if you're going to claim christianity don't do it half-assed and then have the gall to talk to me about going to hell for my ways. Don't claim one thing and do something else. Also, forced beliefs don't get very far, regardless of what you're selling, when you push them onto people unwilling to accept them. It only serves to piss people like me off. This isn't a totally anti-Christian message like most punks want to hide behind. Their opinions --as kooky-crazy as they come off--are as valid as yours or mine. If you want to believe something-(capital letters)DO IT! But, leave me the hell out of it.

"There's no heaven for a heathen like me"--the mighty F.Y.P. (R.I.P. Joe)

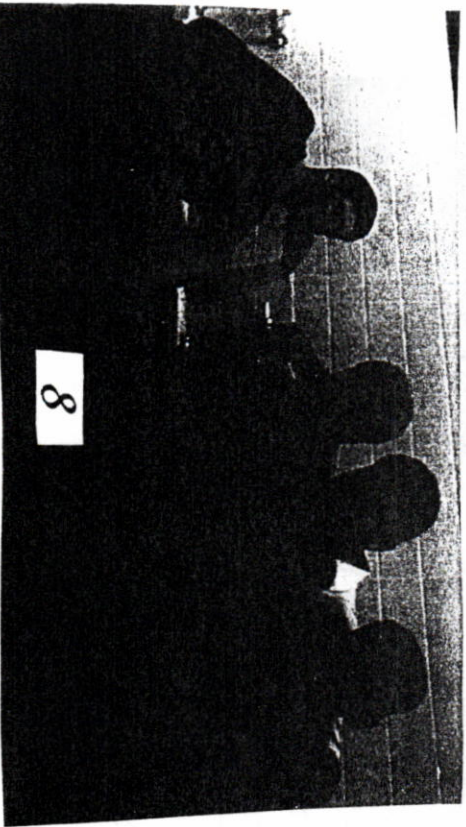
greg



REJECTED CRASS SLOGANS

HERE'S SOME DRUNKEN BITS OF WISDOM THAT DIDN'T
 QUITE MAKE IT ONTO THE BACK OF YOUR T-SHIRT. DON'T
 BEAT ME UP, IT'S A JOKE.

- *GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, SO WHERE THE
 HELL DID WEIRD AL COME FROM?
- *THE NATURE OF THE OPPRESSOR IS ONLY BROUGHT TO
 LIGHT WHEN.....MAN, AM I DRUNK.
- *ICE CREAM GOOD, WAR BAD.
- *WE ARE ALL JUST EYES IN THE SAME BIG HEAD.
- *YES SIR, I WOULD LIKE FRIES WITH THAT.
- *WHILE THEY SIT IN THEIR LAVISH HOMES AND PONDER
 OVER THEIR RICHES, WE WILL EAT LOTS OF CANDY.
- *HUMAN NATURE IS TO STRIVE FOR HAPPINESS. I JUST
 WANNA GET LAID.
- *WHAT THE HELL KIND OF NAME FOR A MOVIE IS GATTICCA?
- *CLASS WAR NOW, FRISBEE GOLF LATER.
- *IF YOU REALLY WANT YOUR FREEDOM, WATCH OUT FOR
 FLYING SAUCERS.
- *WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO EAT THE LICORICE JELLY BEANS
 THAT OUR GOVERNMENT FEEDS US? NOBODY LIKES 'EM!
- *WE DON'T WANT ANY PART OF YOUR WAR, UNLESS THERE'S
 SOME PIZZA AND BEER IN IT FOR US.
- *I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THE QUEEN, I HEARD SHE
 SMELLS LIKE CHEESE.
- *WE DON'T NEED NUCLEAR TESTING, UNLESS THEY START
 BLOWING UP WATERMELONS LIKE THAT GALLAGHER GUY.



THE NEW AND IMPROVED ART OF WAR

by hardcore ron

We are in trouble...actually, the threat has been growing for a long time; there are some factors weighing heavily against human life lately. In some recent reading, I've discovered a few interesting facts about how governments have been trying to step up the number of their opponents' casualties. Does that seem sick to anyone else, or am I a hopeless case?

First off, war is just wrong. Rather than put any real effort into peace negotiation, selfish government officials opt to kill off the other selfish government official's people. Is it just me, or do second graders belong in second grade? A real problem with war killing, is that most of it could be avoided (there are a few out there who are absolutely devoid of a moral inhibition to killing; we have a term for them: "psychopaths.") The act of killing never served any real purpose, other than making things dead, and studies have shown that *all animals possess a strong biological inhibition towards destroying a member of their own species!* This shows that killing is unnatural. We need a non-lethal method for settling our disputes, or we're all simply going to be wiped out.



The problem begins with an animal instinct called posturing. This comes from deep within our animal-like midbrains. Posturing is designed to prevent killing by one animal frightening away another animal, or causing him to submit with a sort of showmanship. For example: it's like bearing teeth, or trying to seem larger than you are, or even waving a

United States flag. Right about now you might be wondering, "Who the hell cares about flags anyway?" Well, that's how I feel too! But, many people do care, like war veterans and such. And a lot of those people made a big fuss about the flag and decided that if the school won't take it down, the police should go make them take it down. So the school took down the earth flag, as well as the other two flags.

The point is, how free is this country if you can't even fly a flag with the earth on it over the American flag? If you own the flags, what the hell is the problem? It doesn't matter if it offends someone! If I'm driving down the street and some redneck shithead passes me in his truck with a big ass southern flag on it, that offends me! But that doesn't mean I can call the cops and have them take it off his truck. That's not how freedom works. Some people don't seem to realize that. They think that if they are offended by something or disagree with something, the next step is to get a law prohibiting it. That way, everyone is obligated by law to do what fits their standards of morality. That sucks.

It sucks that many people in this country don't understand that simple concept. One veteran was quoted as saying "If they don't like the country and the flag enough, then they ought to go someplace else with the school. We don't need those kinds of people, and have too many who want to go their own way anymore. We don't need that sort of thing taught in a school." He essentially decides that anyone who disagrees with him needs to leave the country. Why should one person or one law decide what is unpatriotic for everyone? Why should a person have to leave if they don't follow the status quo? FREEDOM is what is great about this country, and here this man wants to take that away. Now you tell me who's being unpatriotic! The most ridiculous comment was when he said "We don't need those kinds of people, and have too many who want to go their own way anymore." What?! So now people who want to go their own way are unpatriotic? Elvis went his own way, is he unpatriotic? What about the Fonz? Should he have been forced to leave the country? Absolutely ridiculous.

Please stand up for everyone's right to do what they want, as long as it isn't hurting anyone. These bastards will squeeze all the life out of us if we don't keep fighting back. Not everyone wants to follow their standards for morality and patriotism, and I'll be damned if I'm ever going to let anyone tell me what I can or can't do. You be sure to do the same. Don't back down, do what you want and if someone's got a problem with it, tell them it's a free country.--Matt

Religion, Punk, and Not-So-Open-Mindedness by Matt

In the punk rock world, religion (especially Christianity) is treated with hatred by many. Many of those see religion as a form of oppression, and sometimes it is. It can be seen as a set of rules that must be followed and sometimes those who stray are threatened with condemnation. This type of threatening may scare some people into believing and following a religion (no, I'm not saying that all religious people hold their beliefs out of fear, but some do), but to the rebellious crowd, threats usually just bring defensiveness and retaliation. Rebellion alone is undoubtedly another reason why many punks hold something against religion. Whether it is rebellion against family tradition or society as a whole, religion is something that the majority in the U.S. believe on faith alone, which makes it the perfect way for punks to express their disapproval of mainstream society.

But, through all this bitterness and hatred that religion is treated with, religion starts to get thought of as tangible, like a government or a group. It is easy to lose sight of the fact that it is not tangible. Religions mean something different to everyone. From the person who believes in autonomy, but still thinks that there is some higher power, to the person who believes that anyone who does not follow the rules of the bible will rot in hell. It is this variety in opinions that seems throw off a lot of people. It is human nature to generalize and to assume, no one can avoid rushing to judgement sometime in their lives. So when the more rebellious folk are presented with someone who's view of religion takes on one of the more oppressive forms, that sometimes turns them off to all religions and all religious people. Many a punk have expressed their hatred for religion, much of this is seen in a lot of records and zines you come across.

Often times, the ever infamous slogan is used to express the person or band's feeling on the subject. "Fuck religion," "We hate Christians," and other knowledgeable one liners can be heard rolling off the tongues of punks world wide. Many of these same people proudly speak out for "equality." How stupid is it for someone to say they believe in equality, but then to turn around and say that they hate Christians? It is just a difference in opinion! I am not a religious person, but I can realize that everyone is different and as I said earlier, religion is not tangible. There is no right or wrong, everyone sees it differently.

So why do so many punks carry around so much

generalized hate for religion, when it simply a matter of opinion? Does it really make them that mad to see someone who is content with beliefs different from their's? Surely by now, many a punk head is overflowing with anger, thinking, "The reason I hate religion is because it is the oppressor. The bible condemns homosexuals and any other group which it deems immoral." Yeah, I agree that the people who go around telling people that they are going to burn in hell because of their beliefs or sexual orientation suck bad. But not all religious people are like that. And if you generalize by saying that you hate Christians, you are no better than those oppressive few super-conservatives. Remember, being open-minded isn't just the cheery catch phrase of the 90's, it's something that actually requires a little deeper thought process.

I am by no means saying that someone should refrain from stating their opinion on the grounds that it might offend a religious person (hell, I poke fun at religion all the time), just realize how personal people's beliefs are before you say something like "Fuck Christians." To you, something may seem stupid or unbelievable, but to others it may be something that they truly believe and hold dear to their hearts. Just because some religious people seem to wear it on their sleeve as a symbol of how much better they are than everyone else, realize that a lot of religious folks are pretty unassuming and not tyrannical about their beliefs like Christian supremacists are. So let's all try to stop judging people and generalizing about people. I know it's hard, it almost seems sometimes that we're programmed to hate one another. I think we can overcome that with a little effort.

I believe that as long as someone has taken the time to think for themselves about what they believe (not just choosing a religion according to what everyone else is doing), they deserve to at least have their opinion respected as long as their opinion is not oppressive towards anyone. That does not mean however, that you shouldn't argue or discuss the topic of religion. Discussions and arguments are two of my favorite things and two of the most important things in the world today. It is essential to have them in order to form your opinions. I always want to hear every perspective before I come to a conclusion about what I believe regarding any topic. I'm not a big internet person, but one of the few conversations I've had on the internet was with a devout Christian who was about my age. Instead of going off on him about how "Christianity is dumb," I simply asked him to explain to me why I should believe in Christianity. We talked for about two hours. At times the discussion got pretty heated and in the end neither of us really convinced each other about anything. But when it was time to go, we both agreed that it was an enjoyable experience.

Freedom?

You can't help but notice how many bands, zines, and people endlessly harp on how horrible they think America is. Some people seem so content to just sit back and whine, that sometimes I wonder if they have ever even done anything to try to change what they don't like. I wonder if they carry their opinions to anyone outside the punk rock world, or is it just another anarchist weekend warrior. Sometimes I think some of the complainers don't even know what they're complaining about. "Smashing the System" has grown into such a comfortable slogan to throw around that rarely do you hear anyone ever follow it up with why they want to smash the system. I think some people want to smash the system because that's what all the cool bands talk about. You know, the real bands. The ones that sing about important subjects between six packs.

Well, I'm a complainer and I know exactly what I'm complaining about when I say that there's things that I don't like about this country. One of the main problems I have with this country is the way that certain people believe that they set the moral and patriotic standards for all others to follow. And it's not just good enough to call those who refuse to follow immoral and unpatriotic, now they've decided that they will attempt to use the law as a way to enforce their moral beliefs and force everyone to follow them. What I am complaining about is the conservatives, who believe that freedom is the right to do what you want, unless they don't like what you're doing.

It never ceases to amaze me how conservatives brag about how they want less government interference in the lives of their citizens, but then they are mostly the ones who push for the censorship of music and art. I've discussed before about why many of them believe that women should not have the right to have an abortion. In other words, they want less government intervention on things that they like, and they want the government to intervene and stop things that they don't like. They try to force everyone to follow their standards for morality. It is so dreadfully obvious, but the masses haven't seemed to realize the great conservative scam yet. The latest ridiculous patriotic venture into the personal lives of ordinary citizens took place in Edmond in March. A school called School of the Plains, a private primary school, flew an earth flag over the American flag (those dirty rotten bastards!). Common sense tells us that without the earth, there would be no United States, but conservatives have never been interested in common sense.

The school was in violation of the U.S. Flag Code. But, there is no punishment for flying any flag over the

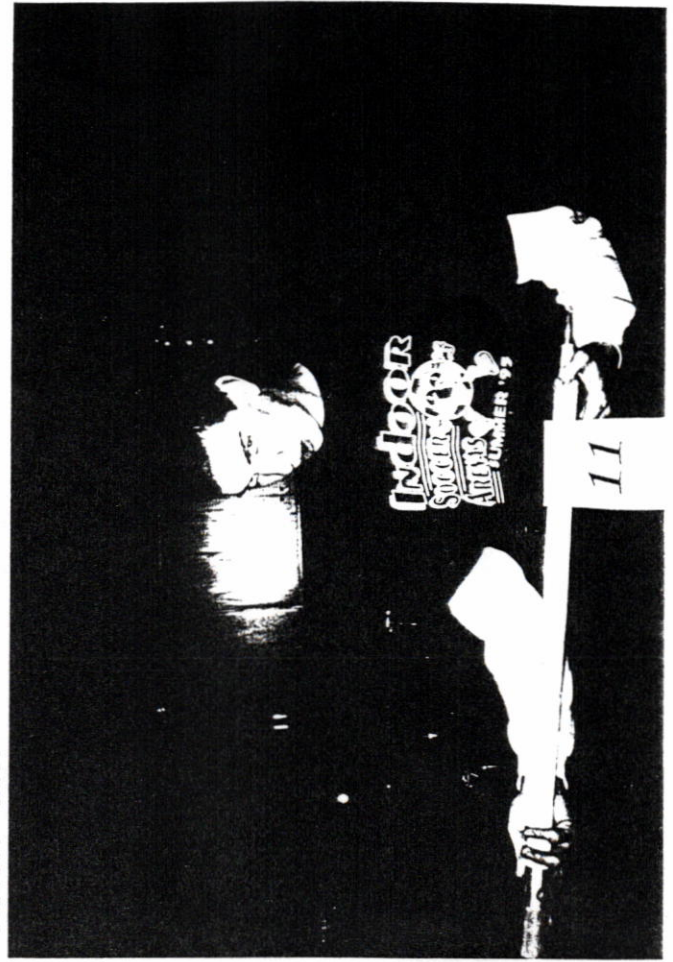
Major media manipulation then took place due to Chicago Tribune editor Clayton Kirkpatrick, a long time "friend of the FBI." The paper ran fabricated photos and blatantly false pieces about the incident. It wasn't until a 47.7 million dollar lawsuit was filed against the head of the raid that the truth began to emerge. Still, it was a slow moving affair thanks to police obstruction and cover-up. One defendant "forgot" a three-day meeting with O'Neal (the infiltrator) and a defense lawyer, but then "remembered" it later to avoid arrest. After claiming that they had already released all documents regarding the case, it was discovered that the FBI still had over 100,000 pages of documents about the incident. Despite such misconduct, the judge still ruled that the FBI and Chicago Police Department were free from any wrongdoing. One strange note about the incident, the FBI collaborated with the LAPD and raided the Los Angeles Black Panther Headquarters on the exact same day as the Chicago raid. The L.A. raid eventually lead to the unjust imprisonment of P anther leader Geronimo Pratt.

A small amount of justice was served, however, when sanctions were imposed on the FBI for it's cover-up activities. The FBI was forced to pay 1.85 million to the survivors of the raid and the families of the deceased. The FBI's image is that of a crime fighting organization. Truth be told, most of the crime they deal with takes place within their own doors. Using illegal tactics to spy and keep tabs on law abiding citizens does nothing to stop crime. They even send in infiltrators to try to instigate crime! The FBI is our government's way of checking up on it's citizens. Anyone who takes advantage of their right to freedom of speech is labeled a radical if their beliefs lie anywhere outside the status quo and they are subject to an investigation. Let us all recognize the FBI for what it is: a farce, an illegal operation controlled by our government to ensure it's power using any means possible, legal or illegal.--Matt (My main source for most of this was a book called "Agents of Repression" by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall. It is definetely worth checking out.)



If I hadn't given him a chance, how would I have known that I wouldn't like what he had to say? So many times I've heard someone just go off about why they hate religion, and then when a religious person tries to defend their views, that person says "I don't want to hear it. I've heard it all before." That type of attitude is so stupid, yet so prevalent. Common sense tells you that if you are going to present your argument to someone, it is only fair to let them present their's to you.

Since some people seem to be set on interpreting my writings in a very distorted manner, I will end this by summarizing what I am trying to say: I encourage people to discuss and argue religion. That includes letting religious people give their argument. I also believe people should be judged by the content of their character and not by their religious beliefs (unless their beliefs promote facsim). As long as someone has taken the time to think for themselves about their beliefs, I think their opinion deserves to be respected. And keep in mind, if you question whether or not someone has really thought for themselves regarding their religion, the perfect way to make them think is to have a discussion or argument. Telling someone that their religion is dumb without explaining why or letting them defend themselves has never swayed anyone's beliefs, and it never will. It will just make them defensive and less open to what anyone else tries to tell them about their beliefs. In other words, just keep in mind that open-mindedness is a two-way street.--Matt



Political Correctness-Does it Really Make a Difference?

Political correctness has been kicked into high gear in the 90's. P.C. standards such as saying "African-American" instead of "black" and not using terms like "fag" to describe homosexuals come as relief to many who considered such terms discriminatory. However, many believe that societies' embrace of politically correct speech is absurd and takes away from freedom of speech. I think it is great to see society as a whole beginning to accept all people, but does staunch political correctness take it too far? And furthermore, does political correctness really make any difference at all in striving for equality in society?

Some seem to believe that P.C. actually detracts from society, by restricting thought and limiting speech. Should it matter if people use the word "gay" as derogatory term, as long as they treat gay people equally and believe that all people are equal? Plus, there could be someone who does not believe in equality, but speaks in a politically correct manner. The point is, political correctness (or lack thereof) does not necessarily determine whether or not someone believes in equality. Although I definitely do not promote people using such terms as "homo" as derogatory, one can argue that the usage of the term has become a part of our culture (sadly enough) and therefore does not necessarily reflect on the way that person thinks about that group of people. I don't necessarily agree with that. But, I can't necessarily disagree, either.

Without a doubt, it is how you treat people that is really important. And I don't really think anything of it if someone uses a few terms which are not necessarily what some would consider politically correct, just as long as the person is not intending any slander. But, when terms used to describe groups of people are used throughout society as derogatory terms, it is ingrained in people's minds that whatever that word means is something bad. That is where I think people's misuse of such words really takes away from the steps being taken towards equality today. If children grow up thinking of gay as a word to describe something bad, it is going to be even harder for them to comprehend that gay and straight are equal.

That is why it kind of disappoints me when I hear people misuse those words. It especially disappoints me

The raid went down at 4:30 AM. An officer kicked in the door and immediately shot a man point blank in the chest. He had nodded off to sleep with a shotgun on his lap and didn't even have the opportunity to stand up before he was killed. His reflexive response to being shot discharged his shotgun, which was the only shot which was fired by the Panthers in the raid. The first officer through the door then shot an 18 year-old girl who was lying unarmed in a front room bed. Then, another officer came up and hit her with a second round of fire. The officers then unloaded rounds after rounds of fire into the bedroom walls of the apartment. One of the bullets struck Fred Hampton in the shoulder, seriously wounding him.



Two officers then went into his room and found that he was barely alive. They then fired two shots point blank into the back of his head. After the shots went off, witnesses heard one officer say, "He's good and dead now." They then dragged his body to the bedroom doorway. The officers then unloaded the rest of their fire at the remaining Panthers who were trying to run for cover. Four were hit, but none of those were killed. Then those wounded were dragged into the street where they were beaten and arrested for attempted murder of the raiders and aggravated assault. The investigation that followed the raid then took place, which one investigator later admitted under oath was a "white wash" and the "worst investigation" that any of them had ever seen.

"bad-jacketing". One young Panther named Alex Rackley had been bad jacketed by the FBI as a police infiltrator. The ironic thing is that the Panther who assassinated him, named George Sams, really was an undercover FBI agent! Sams plea-bargained his way out of major prison time for Rackley's murder, and pretty much got off with a slap on the wrist. Two Panthers who were accomplices to the murder recieved heavy prison sentences.

Putting radicals in prison was a typical way for the FBI to achieve it's goals. A black anarchist by the name of Martin Sostre was imprisoned for thirty to forty-one years for allegedly selling drugs from his radical bookstore in New York. Sostre happened to be the leader of a local anti-drug campaign. Three members of the Alabama Black Liberation Front were sentenced to twenty years each for defending themselves against a "sheriff's posse" who were later discovered to be connected to the KKK. Lee Otis Johnson, who was a black leftist from Texas was sentenced to thirty years in prison for passing one single joint of marijuana. All of these arrests and more were arranged by the techniques of COINTELPRO, which was the FBI's counter intelligence program. Hoover suspended the program in 1971 to "avoid further embarrassment to the bureau." However, all those who were unjustly imprisoned by COINTELPRO still sat in their cells.

Perhaps one of the worst injustices came when the FBI and the Chicago Police Department raided the apartment of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton. At the age of 19, Hampton's FBI file already contained over 4,000 pages. The FBI placed an infiltrator in Hampton's NAACP office, tapped his mother's phone, and created propaganda to encourage other groups to dislike Hampton. The FBI infiltrator, named O'Neal stole BPP financial records, books, films, and other materials, and also encouraged BPP leaders to commit illegal acts such as bombings and assassinations. O'Neal also drew up a detailed map of Hampton's apartment which aided the FBI in their plans for the raid.

The FBI and Chicago Police Department were under the impression that Hampton and the BPP were responsible for the shooting deaths of two police officers. The purpose of the raid was to get revenge for the deaths. Later, after a real investigation took place, it was proven that Hampton and the BPP were not connected in any way to the shootings. The police didn't care about waiting for the results of the investigation, though. They staged a raid on Hampton's apartment for the early morning of Dec. 4, 1969, using the information that was given to them by the FBI. The night before, Hampton had taught a political science class which was attended by most Black Panther members. Afterwards, Hampton and about ten others returned to his apartment to spend the night, as they usually did.

when I hear people involved in the "punk movement" misuse those words, because it is so counter-productive to what we are working towards. I hardly ever act as the speech police and criticize anyone for the speech they use (unless they are being purposely racist, sexist, or homophobic, in which case I usually have a little talk with them).

The way I see it, it is better just to present the ideas to someone and wait and see if they decide to follow suit. Nagging probably won't change anyone, and if they do change, it will probably just make them more cautious whenever they're around you. Not only will that probably make them dislike being around you, they will more than likely just carry on as usual when you aren't around. That is why I tried get people to start using words like "gay" and "homo" as complimentary terms by using them that way in our record reviews. I wanted to let people know how I felt in a somewhat humorous way, instead of writing an article with some big p.c. vibe that would probably turn a lot of people off. I hope I haven't turned a lot of people off with this article. I think political correctness is useful (as long as we don't go overboard with it) and well-intended. But, instead of following some rule book of the "correct" words to use, I recommend that everyone think about how the words they use represent (or misrepresent) what they believe. --Matt



Endangered Species

In the year 1996, there were 955 endangered or threatened species on Earth and that number is on the rise (Congressional Quarterly, 341). Every year more and more species become endangered or even extinct. Hunters and poachers are one cause of endangerment and extinction of species, but there are other causes such as: habitat modification, human expansion, and even nature that affect extinction of species. On December 28, 1973, the Endangered Species Act was signed by the President to assure the conservation of endangered species (ESA homepage). There are many causes for the endangerment and extinction of animals and plants; action must be taken to see that these stop.

Examples of action being taken to prevent the endangerment and extinction of species include legislation, moving species back into their natural habitats, and education. In March of 1996, California voters decided against a law which allowed trophy hunting of cougars. This issue was also voted down in other states (CQ, 344). Also in 1996, once endangered condors began to rehabilitate the Grand Canyon (CQ, 344). In the Baltimore National Aquarium a sign is posted letting visitors know that in twenty years we may have killed off around one-fifth of all the species on this planet (CQ, 342). In the past twenty years, a popular belief has been that there is a rise in extinction and just in the past decade that belief has turned into reality (CQ, 342). Although there is still hope, at the present time, of the 955 species on the endangered list, 40% or more are recovering in numbers, and roughly 35% are declining in population (CQ, 340). Many wildlife preservation groups are helping the recovery rate rise. They are introducing many of the once endangered animals back into the wild every year. Sometimes man's attempts to help the endangered species fail. One example of this failure is the use of technological ecosystems. These ecosystems were supposed to recreate the real environment, but they usually did not work out (Ehrlich, 96).

In the early 1900's, the migration and continuous settlement of people caused a lot of damage to the environment (CQ, 347). This continuous settlement is still a problem. In general, today's society seems to want more and more land for buildings and parking lots. The depletion of many endangered species is highly affected by this greed. Technology is at it's all time high, but at the same time, nature seems to be at it's all time low. Many people have forgotten about nature and only care about themselves.

Unregulated hunting caused the extinction of the great auk, the quagga and many other now long-forgotten species (Reader's Digest, 256). Some hunters do not seem to care about the endangered species, they are called poachers. Poachers are a huge threat to animals on the endangered species list, and not much seems to stop them.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, has been strengthened by Congress three times since its enactment in 1973 (Congressional Digest, 68). The main goal of the Endangered Species Act is to recover the endangered plants and animals and ensure their long term survival (CD, 68). At this time, over one thousand species are on the list with three thousand more in consideration (CD, 68). The Act will not allow any kind of harm to come to the species on the list. This means that these animals can not be hunted and buildings cannot be erected in their natural habitats (ESA homepage). Many business owners have opposed this act, but they have all been ruled out. The Act was written to replace the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969 and give it more power. Now,

government believed put the well-being of the nation in jeopardy.

The ironic thing is, although the FBI was quick to prosecute obscure leftist groups, they failed to even attempt to end the harmful behaviors of many big businesses. Standard Oil subsidiaries supplied petroleum products and chemicals to the Axis powers throughout World War II. Standard Oil tankers were actually used to refuel German U-Boats which were primarily used for sinking allied shipping. The FBI made no attempt to stop Standard Oil's serious breach of national security. The company International Telephone and Telegraph which is located in the United States, produced a wide variety of electronics for the German Armed Forces during war time. Among those were 30 thousand artillery shell fuses per month, which were used directly to kill thousands of American soldiers. ITT also assembled bombers which the Germans used to kill many people. Once again, the FBI made no attempt to stop ITT's harmful business ventures. Another American group that aided the Axis powers during World War II was General Motors, who assembled trucks and cars for the German Armed Forces as well as engines for "Ju.88 bombers," which were one of the Nazis deadliest weapons. Why did the FBI spend so much time, money, and man power to undermine unthreatening radical groups, when there were such blatant violations of national security right in some of the nation's most prosperous businesses? Because they weren't really interested in national security, they had their economic interests in mind.

One FBI tactic for instilling hatred in the public for black leftist groups like the Black Panthers was what is called "Black Propaganda". Black Propaganda is documents that are forged to look like they came from black leftist organizations. They contained false information that was created to try to stir up hatred between these organizations. When one Black Panther was killed by a member of another black organization because of a falsified dispute, the FBI called their work a "success". The FBI would send infiltrators into organizations to try to incite violence or destruction so that not only would that organization discredit itself to the public, but police would have a reason to crack down on activities that the organization conducted. The typical infiltrator would travel from campus to campus encouraging young radicals to bomb and burn military facilities. The FBI's use of infiltrators in this fashion was especially prevalent in the late 60's.

The FBI also instilled hatred within radical organizations through the creation of false rumors. For example, they would start a rumor using Black Propaganda tactics that said that one particular Black Panther was really an undercover cop or CIA agent. Those organizations were so suspicious of infiltrators that such rumors often led to executions of the person in question. They called this tactic of falsified rumor spreading

The FBI: Illegally Enforcing Status Quo

The FBI's history of illegal tactics used to undermine radical groups including the Black Panther movement

J. Edgar Hoover may have been cool enough to be a cross-dresser, but other than that he was a pretty shitty guy. It was he who began the FBI during the winter of 1918-1919. The FBI had existed previously under the name of the "Bureau of Investigation" (BoI). The BoI had received much criticism from the press and the public regarding their unconstitutional conduct. The press exposed how they sent agents on a rampage across the nation, searching out anyone who was deemed "radical" or "politically undesirable" and either imprisoned, executed or murdered them. It may seem shocking to you that such a thing could take place here in America. It shocked many other people at that time, too, including many government officials. It was at that time, when the pressure to end the BoI was the greatest, that Hoover stepped in and changed the name of the organization to the FBI.

He promised to completely reform the organization. To do so, he fired all members of the staff who were suspected of wrongdoing. Though Hoover attempted to make it look like the organization would no longer invade into the lives of every day citizens, soon it became clear that the illegal tactics of the organization had not changed a bit. Hoover began stockpiling "Active Investigation" files, most of which pertained to non-crimal activities (in other words, activities that the government has no constitutional right to stick their nose into). As of 1975, the FBI had collected nearly 6.5 million files. They began collecting fingerprints from all citizens, not just criminals. They stockpiled 159 million prints by 1975. Hoover attempted to make this appear to be a major crackdown on crime, but the majority of the FBI's actions show that the information was mostly used to keep tabs on radicals, political groups, and subcultures.

A division of what used to be the BoI was now known as the division of Identification and Information (DII). The DII kept tabs and information on many groups of socialists, communists, union organizers, black activists, and other groups which the government considered "ultra-radical." The FBI and all groups linked to it were clearly focused on watching out for the status quo. Anyone whose opinions did not coincide with those of the majority were subject to government investigations. It was in 1938 which the FBI began the most significant and illegal investigations. This was discovered when a classified document from Hoover to President Roosevelt was found. It described such illegal FBI tactics as wire tapping, mail tampering, bugging, and breaking and entering. These tactics were used against leftist groups who the

once a species is put on the list, plans for recovery of the species are initiated (ESA homepage). According to the Endangered Species Act, a species must be put on the list of it is found to be threatened by of the following five factors:

- present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- disease or predation;
- inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and
- other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence (ESA homepage)

In 1995, the Supreme Court upheld the wide usage of the Endangered Species Act to protect plants and animals that were living on private property (CO, 347). Other court cases dealing with the Act were brought before the Supreme Court and these three regulations were set: first, the prohibition of any habitat modification that will harm species; second, that the commissions and omissions of actions would be included; third, that individual animals as well as entire species are not to be harmed

Lately many groups and individuals have sought reforms and restrictions for the Endangered Species Act. Representative Don Young wanted to give more power to the states and the landowners, allowing changes in habitats without risking punishment. He also wanted more restrictions and requirements for new species to be added to the endangered species list (CD, 96). Many other reforms and restrictions have been attempted since then but the Endangered Species Act is holding firm.

A great amount has been done to reduce the endangerment and extinction of plants and animals within the past decade. There is still much more that can be done, such as protesting the reform bills brought before Congress every year and increasing public awareness. Although the threats to the endangered species remain present they seem to be declining, and more recovery projects are started all the time. There are many things that can cause the endangerment and extinction of plants and animals. People all over the world are taking action to preserve and increase the populations of endangered species.

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BY ROSS

(crud) Reunion 98' Tour Diary

1/3/98-Joel and I decided to get the band back together today. He needed an outlet for his lyrics and I had quite a few guitar riffs worked out during our hiatus. When the band broke up soon after our Halloween show in Edmond, music was the last thing on our minds. Our old drummer Milton was having increasing personal problems. We knew he had been dabbling in crystal meth and crack, but when we found an emptied syringe next to his snare drum, we knew it was time to have a talk with him. I knew he was having trouble handling the strains of being on the road and performing in front of people. His drug problem combined with the fact that his girlfriend had recently been deported back to Bulgaria, led us to believe that it would be in Milton's best interest to leave the band.

We didn't want to seem like jerks, kicking him out when he ran into a few problems, so we just decided to end the band. I think all of us knew in the back of our minds that we would get back together someday, with or without Milton. A mutual friend of ours told me that Milton has been clean for months and is headed to Mexico to teach goat herding to the Zapatistas. I knew his years of dedication on the farm would pay off for him sometime. I hope I hear from him, but Milton isn't the type to write (although some may recall his bitter, sarcastic submission for Shitty Zine of the Month in issue #2, which was written from the perspective of his alter-ego (you have to know him to understand)). In retrospect, ending the band was probably the best thing that could have happened for all of us. It gave us all some time to think about life and to find ourselves musically. And it gave Milt a chance to get his life back together.

1/5/98-We had our first practice since Milton left today. Richie's brother, Gary was recruited to be the new drummer. Although he doesn't have Milton's technical ability, Gary has a style all his own that adds more flavor to the band. Richie has managed to work out some seriously insane beats on the beat machine while we were apart. Some of the break beats he laid out today really had me going and I'm more excited than ever. Today's practice was not very tight, as you might imagine with a new drummer and all, but it was energetic and we crudified a song I wrote for my old band Mad Cow Disease that I'm really excited about.

2/18/98-After more than a month of nearly daily practices, we played in front of a small group of friends and recorded a few of our tunes. Everyone who hadn't seen us in a while seemed kind of taken aback by our revised

We all just kept on running, veering off in different directions. I turned and ran back towards Grandma Ludhelm, using reason enough to know she probably couldn't stop me, and pregnant 14-year-old slut daughter was probably too immobile to catch me, what with her large belly and all. I made a wide circle around them, dodging thrown beer bottles, and crossed back by the basketball courts. I saw Brian back there, he was being beaten by the notorious Ludhelm cousins, Richie and Sammy. Since I had yet to see them, I thought they had just decided to skip out on this beating. Every story I'd heard had those two right in the middle of the action. They were laying into Brian with baseball bats when they caught sight of me and took off after me. Tears of fear streamed down my face as I hauled my fat ass as fast as I could go. All I could think about was what Brian was telling me a few weeks ago. He said that the Ludhelms named their baseball bats after people that they had beaten with them. Now Brian would probably be the name of a bat, and it was beginning to look like I might have a bat named after me, too.

I ignored the cries of agony and the cackling drunken laughter that I heard behind me as I sprinted along the outside of the woods. I was going to go around the woods and enter back into the neighborhood through the driving entrance. I just ran and ran and never looked back, but I could hear the steps behind me. I think that just made me go faster. How I managed to make it to my Dad's house, I'll never know. Perhaps Richie and Donnie were just too drunk to keep up. When I came to the door, I was worried it could be locked, in which case I would be up shit creek without a paddle because the boys were still in hot pursuit. Luckily, it wasn't locked. I ran in and slammed the door behind me. My dad sat watching TV and was startled by my entrance. I fumbled with the locks until the door was secure. "Dad," I said, "the Ludhelms were after us! I think I was the only one that got away!" Jeremy (my step brother) is still out there, you've got to help them!" "Ludhelms?!" my Dad exclaimed. "There isn't a chance in hell I'm going out there! Jeremy's going to have to come home by himself!" He turned off the TV and retreated to his room.

I didn't sleep much that night, staying up listening for a knock on the door. Jeremy didn't come home that night. At dawn, I hopped on my bike to go look for him. I knew it was safe because everyone knows that the Ludhelms only give beatings at night. I headed to the playground. On the way I saw a scraggly figure lying in a ditch. I think it was my step-brother's friend John, but I didn't stop and look. When I got to the playground, I found my step brother sitting next to a basketball goal. He looked a little tired, but he wasn't even beaten up! "What happened?" I asked. "They held me down and made me drink beer," he said. "Did they beat you?" I continued. "No," he said, "that's what I can't figure out. They beat everyone else, but right when they were going to beat me, they just left." To this day, none of us are sure why they didn't beat Jeremy. It is my theory that pregnant 14 year-old slut Ludhelm sister went into labor and had to be taken to the hospital. But, even then, you'd think at least some of them would have stayed to beat him. I guess we will never know. -(The name of the family was changed in this article to avoid further beatings. So, if you're name is Ludhelm, we ain't talking about you.)

The Most Metal Family Ever

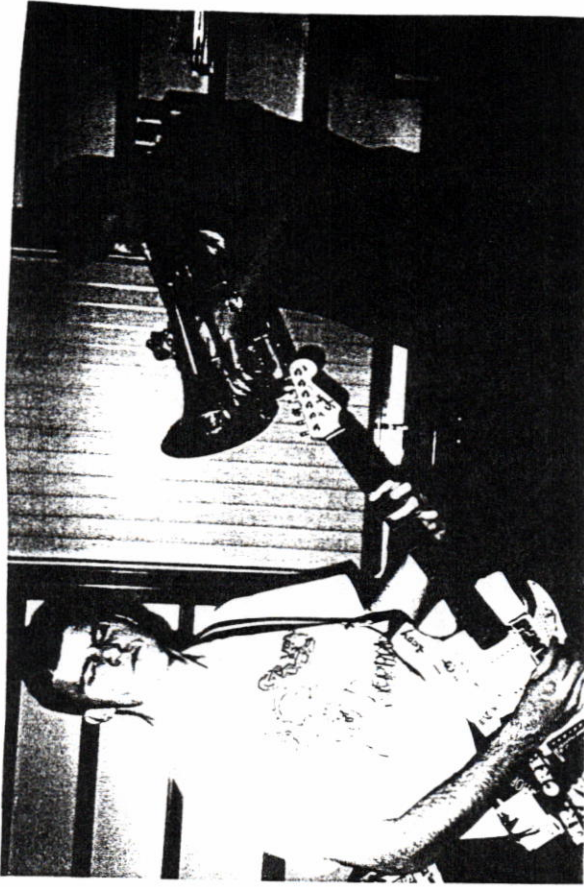
A True Story by Matt

I spent a lot of time in the town of Stillwater when I was growing up. My parents got divorced when I was four and my Dad moved there for business. It's a quiet restful place, everything moves in slow motion compared to life in the bustling metropolis of Edmond. Stillwater may have seemed like a nice quiet town on the outside, but like most small towns, they hid a dark secret. That secret was a family named the Ludhelms. The Ludhelms instilled fear in the entire population of Stillwater. The mere mention of their name would make most Stillwater residents shiver with fear. See, Stillwater isn't the most exciting place. And everyone has a different way of handling their boredom. Some people play sports. Others go to school. Some enjoy art. The Ludhelms? They like beating the shit out of people. The entire family does. Grandma, Grandpa, the pregnant 14 year old daughter, Mom, Dad, all of them. On Friday nights, it was a given that if you're walking around outside, you'd better keep your eyes peeled for Ludhelms. Most Stillwater folks didn't really experience the full threat of the Ludhelm attack because the Ludhelms lived in a remote neighborhood on the edge of town. That neighborhood was also my Dad's neighborhood.

I had one run in with the Ludhelms, and it still haunts me to this day. I was about ten years old at the time, a budding basketball fiend and a chubby little bastard. I liked to hang out with my step-brother and his friends when I was at my Dad's house. They were older and cooler than me, so you can imagine I felt like hot shit when I got invited to go play basketball with them at the schoolyard one Friday night. We all lived in the same neighborhood, so all of us traveled in a large eight-man pack through the neighborhood, across a field, and through some woods until we got to the schoolyard, which was about a fifteen minute walk away. To this day, I still don't know why none of our parents seemed to have a problem with us staying out late in some shady playground and why none of us had the common sense to think that it was a Friday, which meant the Ludhelms would be out somewhere.

The threat of the Ludhelms never crossed any of our minds as we shot some hoops underneath the neon playground lights. It was probably about 11:30 before we were tired of playing and a few of us sat and rested while persistent geeks still goofed around and prodded the others to just play one more game. We were all arguing when out of nowhere, my step-brother's friend Brian let out a scream of pain which was preceded by the dull thud of an object smacking against Brian's head. We were all a bit stunned as Brian collapsed onto the ground and writhed in pain with a broken beer bottle now by his side. I think it occurred to all of us at the same time what was going on. It was the Ludhelms. At this point, another beer bottle crashed into the ground, only feet away from me. We all turned and ran back towards our neighborhood. Mama and Papa Ludhelm emerged from the woods in front of us, wielding baseball bats. I turned and saw Grandma Ludhelm and pregnant 14 year-old slut daughter Ludhelm behind us, with more beer bottles. They had us surrounded in a drunken ambush.

sound. For post-Milton (crud) we decided to drop the "no distortion" rule. We previously believed that distortion took away from the purity of the music. We wanted to play our songs with a clean guitar sound, but there was no getting around the fact that it flat out sounded like shit. Plus, distorted guitar sounds much better with Richie's new speedier beat machine style. Everyone seemed to love Richie's new beats and we even put together a remix version of our old classic "Open Up Your Trunk, It's Time To Steal Stuff" that I happen to think is superior to the original. Everyone was pumped at the end of the rehearsal, but I don't think that we're going to release any of the recordings we did because the beat machine just wasn't high enough up in the mix.



3/10/98-Matt, guitarist from local Edmond band Later Dayze, begged me to have (crud)'s first performance since the reunion at his band's show next Friday. He knows nothing will bring more people in Edmond to a concert more than the possibility of (crud) playing. Somehow, through our struggles to play non-mainstream music with a rather overwhelming anti-lactose message, we gained a small, yet dedicated following. I told Matt that he didn't have to beg, we would be happy to play at his bands' show. We knew we were ready to play, the question was-Is the world ready to hear us?!

3/16/98-We put the finishing touches on our songs today to prepare for tomorrow's show. We bought bread, peanut butter, and plastic knives to have on stage, just in case anyone wanted to come up and make themselves a sandwich while we were playing. Everyone agreed at the end of the day that this was the best practice we've ever had. Gary's drum beats were crisp, I was getting a phat guitar tone, and Joe's voice was not unlike that of Elton John, and that bastard Richie never ceases to amaze me with the samples he lays out. I stayed up late that night trying to decide on the set list, something I have always decided by myself as a band tradition. I always worry that the song order that I come up with won't be good, ever since the incidents at the Halloween show. Sometimes I just have to have faith in myself.

3/17/98-Today was the day for the first big show since the reunion. There was a bit of tension as we showed up to the site of the show, only to find out that the guys from Later Dayze have yet to find the owner of the facilities, so therefore with only an hour to go before showtime, the gates remain locked. Somehow, we all got our shit together and nightfall was upon us and the show was ready to begin. The Later Dayze guys asked us to play first, which seems strange, but I think he just wanted to please the fans who were slightly disgruntled about the unexpected wait and poor facilities. There wasn't quite the amount of people that we were anticipating, but enough people were there that we could feed off their energy.

We opened with "Horchata", which is always a fan favorite. When Richie busted out his trumpet solo perfectly, I knew this was going to be a hell of a show. I gave the crowd some ideas on how I feel about society's usage of lactose between the songs and they seemed pretty receptive. There were no hecklers like at shows in the past, perhaps it was because I tried to keep all of my between song speeches under five minutes each (which is sometimes hard to do). Songs that seemed to go over well were "Lactose Is The Bastard" and "Cookie, I Love You," which is basically Richie using his love for cookies as a metaphor to describe his hatred for early 80's Red Scare Communist propaganda. Everything sounded great, except for my unintentional 5 second pause before my solo in "Spacehore." I don't think anyone noticed, though. People sometimes get the impression that I'm some great guitarist. Just between us, let me tell ya-I can't play guitar worth a rat's ass!



8 Seconds Till Freedom

There are millions of animals on this earth ranging from lions and bears all the way to the simple giant squid. Many times I have asked myself, "Matt, of all the animals on this beautiful earth which would you want to be?" After many hours of thought, I've decided that I just couldn't go wrong with being a goldfish.

First of all, most goldfish are domesticated. Yes there are some goldfish in freshwater ponds, but just for today we're going to pretend that there aren't any. All day long goldfish just swim around their bowl with no problems or worries. They don't have to worry about a madman nuking us, an asteroid hitting the Earth destroying all mankind, or making good grades in order to get into graduate school.

Just imagine how great living in a fishbowl would be. The water is always a constant temperature. No need to worry about hot summers or cold winters, the bowl will always be just right. If I was a goldfish I'd never have to wear clothes again. Who has ever heard of a goldfish wearing clothes? This may not sound like a big deal, but I long for the day where I can walk proudly in the buff. Clothes are a hindrance. Lastly, imagine all that great fishbowl decorations. Swim through castles, find hidden treasure and make faces at that funny looking diver guy. Life would be so great staring out a fish bowl.

Now you may be thinking to yourself, "Sure Matt, that all sounds great at first, but give the fishbowl a couple of days and it will start getting old pretty fast." Well that's the beauty of being a goldfish, they only have an 8 second memory. Every 8 seconds and they've got a whole new world to explore. If a lady goldfish were to break my heart, it would only take 8 seconds to get over here. When the walls start closing in, 8 seconds till freedom. And just imagine all the possibilities when it comes to bad food. An 8 second memory is the answer to a worry free life.

Call me crazy, but that's my dream. A problem free life of sitting back, relaxing, swimming, and catching up on some sun all in a beautiful and exciting world. I am a man of reason and realize that I will never be a goldfish, but hey, it was just a thought

By Matt #2

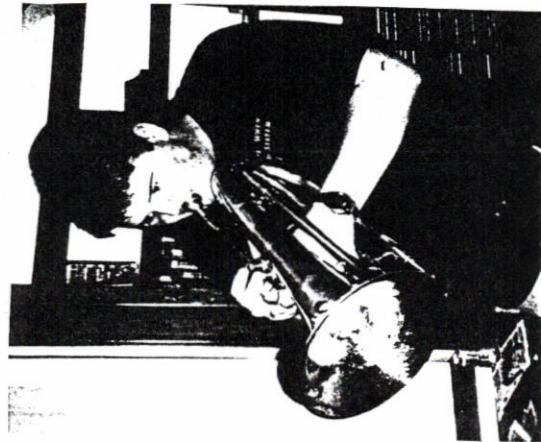
The story told by a former NASA emergency-preparedness officer is even more revealing. He worked on the Galileo and Ulysses launches which both contained large amounts of plutonium. He says, "They didn't even let me do my job. I was told that the job was cosmetic, that nothing was going to happen and I should just sit there and counsel everyone in the radiation control center and do nothing, and in case of disaster, I could take all protective measures at that time. The only protective measure I could have taken at that time, of course, would have been to wet my pants. And my own immediate management told me: Lay off, keep a low profile, don't let the protest groups know that there is any danger. " You can imagine that these kind of procedures were carried out in full force for the Cassini mission, with it's upsurge of negative publicity. It's kind of hard to know what to believe since most of us aren't rocket scientists, but when I see NASA trying to hide things and distort the truth, it sure doesn't make them seem very trustworthy to me.

Our government, Bill Clinton in particular, ignored the tidal waves of public disapproval and agreed to let NASA use plutonium to shoot Cassini into space. So far, there have been no mishaps with this mission, but we have to keep our fingers crossed because the most dangerous part of the mission is still yet to come, when the 3.4 billion-dollar flying rock collector comes soaring back by Earth in August 1999. The saddest part about this whole situation is that it goes to show that ordinary U.S. citizens really don't have any control at all over their country. If large groups of people can't convince their government to reconsider putting all life on Earth at risk, how can we consider our government to be a true democracy? Nobody asks to have 3.4 billion dollars of their tax dollars put towards collecting space rocks and nobody asks to have their lives put at risk because a bunch of pocket-protector goof balls have way to much time and money on their hands. This isn't sci-fi Captain Kirk and Hans Solo bullshit, this is real life stuff. These gimps at NASA have had countless accidents in the past, and as their projects get larger, the accidents will get larger as well.--Matt



22

As our set was rolling along swiftly, the cops rolled along swiftly as well. A man and a lady cop approached the stage. They asked us (quite rudely, I might add) to cease the music and go to our respective homes. I guess they thought that we didn't have permission from the owners to be there or something (we did). So while people tried to explain to them the situation, and Andy tried to explain to them that they couldn't shut down the show because Shannon Miller's brother was in attendance (he really was, he's in a goth band called Bliss In The Abyss, I promise), we recognized that the Evil Concert Mafia had struck again, and all attempts to resist their illogical nonsense would be futile. So we packed up our shit and went to Subway for some veggie burgers.--Psycho (Catch (crud) on tour if you get a chance! Bring your appetite, the boys always bring peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for everyone!)



Quotes of the Month

Your favorite punk rock heroes let loose!

"Those kids need to get on their skateboards, get their dad's gun and go start something on their own, because it's not up to us."--Felix "Smart Guy" Havoc, Code 13

"I hate all this fuckin' garbage with keyboards and female vocals." "(Our music) is about destroying everything. Destroying light, destroying love, destroying Christianity along with Judaism and all kinds of religions."--Some idiot from Hemlock.

"My girlfriend and I were reading this straight edge zine and she said, "Can you believe someone could be this stupid?" and I said, "No, I really can't."--Ernst, Half Empty.

THE CASSINI SPACE PROBE IS NASA PUTTING MILLIONS OF LIVES AT RISK, OR JUST WASTING YOUR TAX MONEY AS USUAL?

Last month's interview with Against All Authority really peaked my interest in NASA's use of plutonium, with the Cassini Space Probe in particular. So I decided to do a little research. Would NASA really carry out a space mission that puts millions of people's lives in danger? I mean, I know they're great at spending billions of dollars to study moon rocks when there's inner city schools that have been using the same textbooks for forty years, but this is even more outrageous! Could it be that protesters have blown the threat of a plutonium accident way out of proportion? Surely *someone* in the government would have put a stop to NASA's plutonium jamborees if they are as dangerous as rumor has it they are, right? Well, I don't know about you, but I don't know who to believe anymore. So I just decided to do some digging and find out for myself. Here's what I found, see what you can make of it.

The Cassini Space Probe is carrying 72.3 pounds of plutonium at this very moment, as it is coasting briskly through space at a speed of about 42,000 miles per hour. The probe is to first visit Venus, where it will circle the planet twice. Then, in what is referred to as a "slingshot maneuver," the probe is supposed to zip by earth in August of 1999, at 312 miles above the earth. This will somehow (it's technical, and I ain't Mr. Wizard) magically catapult the hunk o' junk to Saturn, where it is scheduled to arrive in 2004. The purpose of this mission, like most NASA missions, is to study (drumroll, please) space rocks. Yes indeed, Saturn's rings are probably composed of some interesting materials, and when I'm 70 years old and living in a cardboard box cause there ain't no damn social security, I'm going to think about how many billions NASA invested in such a worthy cause. Now that you're familiar with this particular mission, back to the task at hand. Plutonium.

Plutonium is the most toxic substance known to man. And this ain't just any Plutonium, this is Plutonium-238. You see, Plutonium-238 is about 280 times more radioactive than Plutonium-239, which is used to make these things called atomic bombs. They suck, maybe you've heard of them. NASA insists it is necessary to use plutonium to power space missions. However, there is quite a bit of proof that there are shady motives behind NASA's substance of choice. General Electric, a company which owns about one-fourth of the mass media in America, has lobbied heavily for NASA's use of plutonium. See, they just happened to have been manufacturers of plutonium-fueled thermoelectric generators for the past few decades. Obviously, GE has financial reasons to support the use of plutonium, and has the cash and media clout to back it up. NASA claims plutonium is necessary. Truth be told, it really isn't necessary at all. In

1994, the European Space Agency discovered a way to use "high-performance silicon solar cells for use in future, demanding deep space missions." The solar cells are more energy efficient than any other known substance (including plutonium). And best of all, if there is a freak accident, 10 million people won't die of cancer! In fact, it probably won't kill anyone! Not only was this new European technology ready to go prior to the assembly of Cassini, there were European physicists who were itching at the opportunity to help the U.S. use the solar cells as an alternative to plutonium. But, in usual cocky American fashion, we ignored them and went with the more expensive (Cassini is up to \$3.4 billion so far) and more dangerous way.

So just how dangerous is the use of plutonium in missions like Cassini? That seems to be the 3.4 billion-dollar question, and everybody you ask will give you a completely different answer. Keep in mind that if one pound of Plutonium-238 were uniformly distributed to every place on Earth, there would be enough to induce lung cancer in every person. So, there certainly is enough of the shit on Cassini to do some damage if it ever got loose. But, could it get loose? NASA put the odds of an accident occurring early in the launch at 1-in-1,490, with the odds increasing to 1-in-476 later on the launch because pressures increase as the Titan rocket's thrust builds. The Titan rockets are not known for their reliability. In fact, the latest in a series of mishaps with the Titans occurred in 1993, when one exploded two minutes after launch. So let's just say that we've concluded that NASA has definitely had their share of accidents. Let us also recognize that NASA's odds are a load of crap. Before the Challenger blew up, they put the odds of a shuttle accident at 1-in-100,000. After the accident, they changed them to 1-in-76. Basically, they don't really know the odds, they just make them up.

It is NASA themselves that warn in an environmental-impact statement that "Approximately five billion to the estimated seven to eight billion world population could receive 99 percent or more radiation exposure" if an "inadvertent reentry occurred" during the slingshot maneuver. That is the portion of the mission which NASA says is the most dangerous. NASA's main claim to the safety of the mission is the lead casings which surround the plutonium, which supposedly make it nearly impossible for plutonium to be released. However, a former NASA scientist disputes this claim, saying the shielding around the plutonium is "fingernail thin. It's a joke." He goes on to describe what sounds like pretty meager protection for such a dangerous substance, to which he concludes "Hardly what anyone would call 'heavily shielded.'" Something that really frightened me is the fact that NASA has already planned out decontamination procedures to carry out if plutonium is released. If the chance of plutonium being released in an accident is so miniscule, why bother coming up with a decontamination procedure?